



## **Open Space Committee**

Date: Thurs, October 28, 2021

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

In attendance: Brian Kelder, Emily Nink, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ann LeRoyer, David White, Shirley Canniff, Wendy Richter

Staff: Kelly Lynema

Visitors: Brian McBride, JoAnn Robinson

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Review/approve 9/23/2021 Minutes**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of 9/23/21 and they were approved by all members present.

#### **2. Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029 Update**

##### **a. Review survey summary results**

- The committee reviewed the results of the survey, which received 1057 responses. It was noted that some of the concerns about the bike path revealed in the comments will be addressed by the bike path study.
- Next steps: HW will determine how to integrate survey results into the plan and will send draft recommendations for review at the next OSC meeting (changed from 11/11 to 11/16). The survey data will also be presented (in a different format) at the public forum (changed from 11/16 to 12/8).

##### **b. Discuss Sections 2-5 Draft Materials**

Ann compiled comments from committee members and DPCD staff (chapter by chapter) and sent them to HW for the next round of revisions. Kelly offered to set up a call with Ann and HW prior to the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> (now 16<sup>th</sup>) to discuss revisions and review the planning schedule.

Structure/outline of the chapter: introduction, three corridors, major sites (20 from last version of the plan), inventory chart.

- The committee reviewed the list of three corridors. Some members suggested adding the Mystic River Reservation as a fourth corridor in

order to discuss current projects such as the bike route connectivity feasibility study. The committee agreed to add this corridor.

- The committee reviewed the list of 20 major spaces and discussed that the Mugar site needs to be reviewed again when more information is known about plans for the proposed Thorndike Place project and conservation parcel.
- Kelly had assembled the 20 site maps in a single document in order to review where changes will be needed. Comments should be sent to her so they can be made on the Town's GIS files. We also need to add a legend for E (entry) and P (parking).

The committee discussed some specific sites/site maps:

- Turkey Hill-- opportunity to connect the "orphaned" parcels?
- Arlington Great Meadows: David will mark the map for the Arlington Great Meadows and scan/send back to Kelly (need to remove Golden Living Center and add new paths).
- Shirley will review the Park & Rec sites and let the committee know where changes have been made or facilities added/upgraded, i.e., Magnolia Park and Arlington Reservoir.
- The committee also agreed to add Whittemore Park and Uncle Sam Park as a combined new "major space" in this section. A new site map will also be needed.

The committee reviewed a proposed list of small spaces and the categories/groupings that are suggested for this new sub-section.

- The committee would like to acknowledge the historical properties in this subsection, as well as the Battle Road Scenic Byway and Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. JoAnn Robinson (Arlington Historical Commission) offered to provide a list of properties from the Town's historic inventory to denote which sites have this protection.
- The committee would also like to acknowledge the smaller conservation lands overseen by the Conservation Commission.
- Elisabeth is writing up descriptions of the community gardens and school gardens / "outdoor nature classrooms."
- Wendy is working on rain gardens / reclaimed green space inventory.
- Another category is 24 memorial gardens (Veterans) and 60 traffic islands and planters maintained by Arlington Garden Club and/or local businesses.
- Public realm and plaza areas including recently established parklets (hardscape) offer new seasonal open spaces.

- The committee discussed whether we need another map (so as not to crowd the primary inventory map) that includes schools and more of these smaller resource areas. This will be discussed with the consultants as this new section takes shape.
  - The committee reviewed a new draft chart that Ann created to quickly visualize the types of features available at both major sites and other school/neighborhood resources (e.g., basketball courts, gardens, wooded areas, etc.).
  - Shirley offered to identify “scheduled” vs “unscheduled” recreation properties in this list.
- c. November 16 forum (subsequently changed to December 8) (7:00pm)  
Krista will come to the Nov 11 (changed to Nov 16) OSC meeting to give committee members a preview of the plan for the public forum.
- Kelly will put together a press release on all upcoming community meetings.
3. Agenda items not discussed due to time constraints
- a. CPA Projects
  - b. 40B comprehensive permit applications
  - c. Other news

**2021 Meeting Dates** November 11 (subsequently changed to Nov 16), December 9